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Industrial Horizons

WYOMING FRONTIER OF INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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NO FOR RENT SIGNS IN SUNBURST . . .

"Slightly Used Town . . . For Rent."

This was the prospect the people of Sunburst faced when advised in May of 1957 the town's main source of employment, the Texas Company oil refinery, was going to move.

These people decided to take matters into their own hands—and in the traditional American method of the town meeting. Over 100 persons from all walks of life—retired businessmen, teachers, ranchers, oil men, refinery workers, professional men, immigration officials, housewives—have formed the Northern Development Association to put Sunburst back on its feet.

How did all this come about?

Sunburst in early 1957 had been for some time a prosperous and stable community of 850 people, with a year-round employment of 106 men in the refinery and a monthly payroll of \$50,000. The town, confident of the future, had just installed new water and sewer lines, built one of the most complete school plants in Montana and voted a bond issue for a new swimming pool. Sunburst was so oriented to the refinery that it largely ignored farmers in the surrounding area (some of the richest dryland wheat and mustard country in the nation). Texas even owned the city's water supply.

Plant Closing

Then the news leaked out. The Texas Company decided, on apparently economic reasons, to close its Sunburst refinery and move all employees that wanted to go to the Texas Company plant at Anacortes, Washington.

Faced with the loss of more than half the town's tax base, as well as lowered property values and \$500,000 worth of public works bonds to pay off, many of the townspeople did indeed feel like hanging up a "For Rent" sign.

But calmer heads prevailed. Residents of Sunburst had too much invested to give it up without a fight. This is what they did:

Meeting with Texas Officials

1. After meeting with the State Planning Board in Helena (see INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS, June, 1957), citizens under the leadership of Mayor Rolland White arranged a meeting with Texas Company officials to get all the facts on the subject. On February 5, 1958 W. G. Copeland, former superintendent of the Sunburst refinery and now general manager of the Texas Company refinery department in New York City, told a public meeting, "The Texas Company will do everything possible to minimize dislocation in the Sunburst community as a result of the company's decision, a month and nine months ago, to close its Sunburst

refinery. Modernization of the Sunburst refinery to make its facilities fully efficient and capable of producing present quality requirements would mean the expenditure of many millions of dollars. In view of the long-range prospect of diminishing supply of locally produced crude oil, such an investment would be unsound.

"The Company has given consideration to the sale of Sunburst Works as a going concern; but since we have found it impossible to operate on an economic basis, such a sale did not seem feasible. However, if a bona fide offer should be made to purchase the Sunburst refinery as an entity, it would be given due consideration."

Sunburst residents continued efforts to find a buyer for the refinery, but they also decided to look for other sources of employment.

2. In May of 1958, the Texas Company announced the refinery would continue at a reduced production level. This later turned out to require about 35 employees—a third of the former labor force, which still meant a huge decline in the tax base.

Formation of Community Group

3. In August of 1958, representatives of the State Planning Board again met with the Sunburst group. As a result of this meeting, the Northern Development Association was formed, and V. P. Mauritsen was elected president. Since August, the group has had meetings with Charles L. Felt of Great Falls and Ralph B. Chisholm of Seattle, Great Northern Railway industrial development agents; R. L. Toole, State Bank Examiner; Maurice Richey, traffic engineer with the Montana Highway Department; and other de-

velopment people. The group has decided to work on the following projects:

Projects

- a. Start a bank in Sunburst to make it the focus of northern Toole County.
- b. Landscape the proposed Sunburst Interchange of the Interstate Highway to make it attractive to Canadian tourists (Sunburst is the site of the first interchange south of the Canadian border).
- c. Bring a doctor into town.

d. Investigate industries to utilize agricultural crops grown in the area—wheat, barley, mustard, rape seed, soy flower, and livestock.

e. Spruce up the town's shopping area to make it more pleasant to farmers.

Sunburst is enjoying a modest boom again, but people are still concerned.

"Sunburst is doing pretty well," its citizens are scratching about.

Residents of Sunburst are justly proud of their town. Pictured above is the \$500,000 North Toole County High School, with 150 pupils.

MONTANA'S PARTICIPATION IN MIDWEST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES EXHIBIT

FIRMS WITH BOOTHS OF THEIR OWN

Hydo-Point Engineering Co., Hamilton

Truck Grain Blower Co., Seehey
(plant in Whitetail)

"Strato-Lift," hydraulically-operated lift platform.
Device for blowing grain from a truck into storage bins; metal work

FIRMS WHICH VISITED THE EXHIBIT

Glendive Machine Works, Glendive

General machine work

FIRMS WHOSE PRODUCTS WERE SHOWN IN THE STATEWIDE DISPLAY

Browning Tools, Inc., Livingston (distributed by Brekke Distributors, Bozeman)

Calbertson and Chaffey, Inc., Missoula

Custom Pilt Plastics, Inc., (Distributed by Joe Gasser, Jr., Missoula)

Hersman Manufacturing Co., Livingston

H & N Sheet Metal Fabricating Co., Inc., Deer Lodge

King Gage Co., Bozeman

Special ratchet tools

Campfire grill

Fiberglass display fixtures and furniture

"Fire-Go" campfire starter

"Solar Baseboard Diffuser" heating unit

Jewel bearings, special gaging assemblies, pocket tools

"Fire-Pack" campfire unit

Special typewriter and sewing machine furniture

Missoula Pres-to-Logs Co., Missoula

Type-Write Desk Co., Missoula

FIRMS FURNISHING PICTORIAL BROCHURES OR CATALOGS

Coombe Venetian Blind Manufacturing Co., Butte

National Log Construction Co., Thompson Falls

Montana Pole and Treating Plant, Butte

Sullivan Valve and Engineering Co., Butte

Western Iron Works, Butte

Venetian blinds

Pre-cut logs and buildings

Treated poles and fence posts

Valves and machine tools

Foundry, machine tools

FIRMS SUPPLYING STATE PLANNING BOARD WITH PLANT CAPACITY DATA FOR SUBCONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Denison Machine Co., Billings

Glendive Machine Works, Glendive

Northwest Plating Co., Billings

Wagner Heating and Plumbing Co., Glendive

General machine work

General machine work

Chrome plating

General metals fabrication

Report On Midwest Business Exhibit

Montana's small businesses were represented at the six state Midwest Business Opportunities Exhibit held in St. Paul, Minn., October 15-17, according to a report on Montana's participation in the Exhibit prepared by the State Planning Board.

Nineteen small industries, nearly all of them manufacturing specialized products for national distribution, were represented at the Exhibit (see accompanying table). These industries either were represented at the Exhibit directly, or sent exhibits to be included in the state-wide display operated by the State Planning Board, which coordinated Montana's participation in the event.

Over 300 exhibitors from Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin, took part in the three-day industrial trade fair. According to estimates developed by the Exhibit management, over \$90 billion dollars in capital investment was represented. In addition to the small manufacturers represented, such large industries as Allis-Chalmers, Burroughs, IBM, Lockheed, Minneapolis-Honeywell, Minneapolis-Moline, Union Carbide and U. S. Steel Supply had displays of their subcontract opportunities.

Defense Subcontracts

Each branch of the Department of Defense exhibited products it buys from small manufacturers under prime or subcontracts. Collectively, these Defense agencies purchase over \$15 billion annually from small businesses.

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Statewide display at the Midwest Exhibit. The display is coordinated by the State Planning Board. Standing at right is George A. Thompson, Engineer with the State Planning Board. First of the exhibits which formed the Montana booth on the left is that prepared by the State Advertising Department. Jack Hallowell, director, showing Montana's recreational opportunities. Next is the "Living in Montana" display. Next is the Montana Power animated display showing the company's electrical and power equipment. Third from left is the special display prepared for the Exhibit by the State Planning Board showing data about the economy and industrial potential of Montana. This display will be shown on other occasions. On the right is the Montana Railroad Association. John Willard, public relations director, display showing the state's transportation facilities, bus and air routes.

One of the major attractions to the Exhibit was that Montana's was the best statewide display at the event.



Over 20,000 people, mostly from Minnesota and Wisconsin, visited the State Planning Board's booth at the Midwest Business Opportunities Exhibit. Director Perry Roys is shown in the midst of the crowd.

(Report Continued from page two)

Report of Results

Approximately 20,000 persons visited the State Planning Board's display. Representatives of several Midwest retail concerns stated they plan to contact some of the Montana manufacturers who made displays at the Exhibit to obtain their products for distribution in the Midwest. Many other persons requested the names of Montana manufacturers and distributors in order to increase their sales in Montana for items they distribute from the Midwest. Considerable interest was shown by the general public in Montana's recreational opportunities. A few of the contacts made at the Exhibit requested industrial data, as they are considering new plants in Montana. These contacts will be checked further to determine the extent of their interest.

Representatives of the State Planning Board contacted the Defense agencies and large industry about procedures in getting on bid lists. This information is being compiled, and will be available for use of Montana's small businessmen.

SPB Display

The State Planning Board had an extensive display at the Exhibit, representing all the communities of the state and containing products made by a number of small manufacturers. Also a part of the state-wide display were exhibits prepared by the Montana Railroad Association, Montana Power Company and State Advertising Department. Representing Montana were Perry Roys and Everett Darlington of the State Planning Board and R. C. Setterstrom of the Montana Power Company, also chairman of the State Planning Board's Advisory Council.

Publications Distributed

As part of the Montana display, several publications were distributed. Four thousand copies of a special four-page leaflet, "There's Industrial Opportunity in Montana," were given away to the general public. On a more limited basis, copies of "Commerce and Industry" and "Montana Directory of Manufacturers" were also given out. In addition, copies of brochures prepared by various Chambers of Commerce in Montana were available to persons interested in setting up new businesses in those communities. Chambers which sent brochures for distribution at the Exhibit included those of Billings, Butte, Glasgow, Glendive, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula and Wolf Point.

City Planning Organization Formed

Over 50 persons from all over Montana attended the organizational meeting of the Association of Montana Planning Boards October 24 and 25 in Helena.

Cosponsored by the State Planning Board and the City-County Planning Boards of Helena and Great Falls, the meeting was held to consider needed city planning legislation, to discuss common planning problems and to form a state-wide organization to work for effective planning for the future growth of Montana communities.

New Officers

Elected President of the new association was H. Cleveland Hall, President of the Great Falls Board. Vice-President, James E. Battin of Billings. Secretary, Wallace Weir of Great Falls and Elected Assistant Secretary was David K. Hartley of the State Planning Board. Members of the Board of Directors include H. S. Dotson of Helena, George A. Shay of Columbia Falls, Ben Hagerman of Billings, Vernon Peterson of Missoula, and Harold Korslund of Bozeman.

The association was formed "to encourage local units of government to improve the health, safety, convenience and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of their communities."

Associate Members

Associate members of the association are the City-County Planning Boards of Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, and Wolf Point. The City-County Planning Board of Bozeman is not a member of the association, but is planning to join.

In other sessions, the group heard Perry Roys, Director of the State Planning Board, state that most of Montana's population growth since 1950 has been in and around our cities, and that this trend will continue. "We are to keep our cities desirable places to live, and to attract new industry, we must conduct planning programs in our communities," Roys told the group. "Panel led a panel discussion of problems of parks, dedications in new subdivisions."

Kenneth Corbett, Director of Planning and Housing for the City of Seattle, addressed the group on "The need for urban renewal legislation, education and on program of short education which can be accomplished without urban renewal law."

Representatives of 11 communities were present at the two-day meeting, including eight with or without City-County Planning Boards.



Newly elected officers of the Association of Montana Planning Boards are (left to right):

- W. D. Weir, Secretary (member of Great Falls City-County Planning Board)
 - H. Cleveland Hall, President (President of Great Falls Board)
 - David K. Hartley, Assistant Secretary (Assistant Director of State Planning Board, Helena)
 - James E. Battin, Vice-President (member and legal counsel of a Billings City-County Planning Board)
 - George A. Shay, Director (member of Columbia Falls City-County Planning Board)
 - H. S. Dotson, Director (President of Helena City-County Planning Board)
- Not pictured here: Harold D. Korslund, Director (President of Bozeman City-County Planning Board); Ben Hagerman, Director (member of Billings Board)

These men will serve until the 1959 annual meeting, or until replaced as members of planning boards. A total of 58 persons from all over Montana attended the two-day meeting.

Interesting Publications . . .

Principles of Industrial Zoning: Steps to Secure Sound Zoning Performance Standards in Industrial Zoning. Three booklets published by National Industrial Zoning Committee, 820 Huntington Bank Building, Columbus 5, Ohio, and available free from the State Planning Board in Helena. These three booklets will aid City-County Planning Boards with setting up zoning programs. Adequate industrial sites must be preserved on the outskirts of Montana cities if we are to achieve industrial growth. Recently, a new factory employing 150 men was having a difficult time finding a desirable site in one of our larger cities. It would be unfortunate if this industry were lost because it was unable to find a site. These three booklets should be read in conjunction with the article on "Industrial Parks" which appeared in INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS, November-December, 1957.

Bureau of the Budget, Standard Industrial Classification Manual (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1957; \$2.50, 433 pp.). Indispensable book for those doing economic research; classifies all economic activities according to a universally-accepted system. For instance, all veneer and plywood plants are included in group 2432. This book is useful not only for discovering potentials for industrial expansion, but also for understanding technical economic research material.

Montana Freight Rates, Hearing Before Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of U. S. Senate held in Helena, July 8, 1958. (see INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS, July-August, 1958). A limited number of copies are available from the State Planning Board in Helena. This booklet gives an accurate record of the controversy over freight rates in Montana.

Theme of the 28th Annual Convention of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, held November 5-7 in Great Falls, was industrial development and tax problems. Attended by nearly 200 persons, sessions at the Convention dealt with problems of developing new industry in Montana, the state's tax structure and new industries, and further communication with Canada and Alaska. Banquet speaker was J. E. Corette, President of the Montana Power Company, who pointed out the rapid growth in manufacturing activities in Montana in the past few years. Re-elected President of the State Chamber was A. G. Martin of Billings. The 1959 convention will be held in Billings.

APPLY NOW FOR 1960 CENSUS BLOCK DATA

Any municipality under 50,000 population may get special block statistics in the 1960 census by addressing a letter to the U. S. Bureau of Census, Washington 25, D. C., by November 15, 1958. Any community having a local planning program under way should take advantage of this rare opportunity to secure valuable information. Data included in this program includes, for each city block, such information as total population and dwelling units, condition of structures, rents, property values, renter or owner occupancy and vacancies.

This data has been collected as part of the regular census for cities over 50,000 since 1940. Because smaller cities are also showing interest in planning, the Bureau has now set up a schedule of fees for this enumeration. These fees are based on the estimated 1960 population of the contracting municipality, and range from \$550 for cities under 10,000 to \$2,750 for cities between 45,000 and 50,000. If the estimate is high and the municipality is placed by the census in a lower bracket, the Bureau will refund the difference. Any municipality that reaches 50,000 population in the census enumeration will have its entire payment refunded.

ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS PROGRAM

Following is a summary of recommendations made to the State Planning Board by its 12-man Advisory Council. The recommendations arose from a two-day discussion of the Board's program of industrial development held on September 30 and October 1, 1958.

1. Give consideration to the establishment of a modest advertising budget in the next biennium.
2. Make more provision for conducting feasibility type studies on prospective potentials.
3. Work toward the establishment of a statewide industrial development credit corporation.
4. Give more emphasis in program to encouraging manufacturing and processing activity based on utilization of agricultural resources.
5. Continue program activity in city planning in recognition of its important relationship to long term industrial development.

Foreign Investors View Dillon Iron Ore Deposit

When there's an opportunity for something big, Dillon goes all out.

On October 9, according to an article in the "Dillon Examiner" of October 15, residents of Dillon and Minerals Engineering Company sponsored a banquet for six visiting industrialists from Canada and France who were investigating iron ore deposits in the Dillon area. Nearly 50 persons attended, including representatives of the State Planning Board, other State offices and private firms in the Dillon area.

The industrialists were inspecting the Carter Creek iron deposits east of Dillon being developed by Minerals Engineering Company, which also has tungsten holdings in the area. Included in the foreign delegation were Marc Dhavereyness, president of North American Utilities Corporation of Canada in Montreal; J. A. Brusset, president of West Canadian Magnetic Ores, Ltd., in Calgary, and Albert de Boissieu, Chairman of the board of the Schneider's banking firm in Paris.

Large Ore Reserves

Minerals Engineering has been conducting core drillings on the Carter Creek deposit for nearly two years. Proven reserves of over 200 million tons of magnetite ore containing 30 percent Fe or better have been disclosed. This fall, the company started an intensive rotary drilling program, and 4,000 tons of ore from the deposit have been shipped for further testing. If the deposit is fully developed, the ore would probably be concentrated in the Dillon area, and shipped to Alberta steel mills.

The French and Canadian interests first heard of the iron development in the June, 1957, issue of INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS. They then contacted Minerals Engineering in Grand Junction, Colo., for further information.

Copies of the new MONTANA DIRECTORY OF MANUFACTURERS are still available FREE to all Montana residents from the State Planning Board in Helena. Published as a cooperative venture with Montana State College, the 79-page booklet provides detailed information about over 350 Montana manufacturing establishments, as well as a list of 700 others by product classification. Price to out-of-state residents desiring the DIRECTORY for marketing purposes is \$1.50. Groups such as Chambers of Commerce may secure a limited number of copies free for their promotional programs.

MONTANA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Sam Mitchell Building

Helena, Montana

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Industrial Horizons . . .

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